

Nuclear-free zone efforts collapse

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A two-year attempt to increase the number of designated nuclear-free zones has ended in total failure and the United Nations panel that sought the accord will be disbanded, officials said Saturday. Bhaichand Patel, secretary to the 21-nation group which included all five nuclear powers, said the aim was to establish non-nuclear zones in the Middle East, the Balkans, Northern Europe, Africa, South Asia and the South Pacific. "They could not reach a consensus and, for the first time to my knowledge, the secretary general will not be receiving a report from a group that he set up," Mr. Patel said. He indicated that difficulties which arose in the group's latest three-week, closed-door discussions came not from the major powers but from such members as India and Argentina, both of which are said to have a nuclear potential. "They believe the whole thing is unrealistic, a sideshow," Mr. Patel, who is from Fiji, told Reuters.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

Palestinian shot dead in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A Palestinian vegetable seller named Ali Ahmad Musa, 25, was found shot dead Saturday an hour after gunmen kidnapped him, security sources said. Mr. Musa's wife said unidentified armed men dragged him from his home in the old city of Sidon at dawn. His body was found near a Sidon cemetery, the sources added. Resistance forces meanwhile struck twice Saturday in the south, the sources said. A roadside bomb exploded near an Israeli patrol on the coast road south of Tyre and another patrol came under automatic weapons fire on the Al Bass road north of the city. There was no immediate word on casualties.

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Parliamentary team visits Cairo today

AMMAN (Petra) — A parliamentary delegation headed by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fozay will leave Amman for Cairo on Tuesday. The visit, which will last for one week, comes upon invitation of the speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, Rifat Al Mahjub.

Zambian leader begins Cairo visit

CAIRO (AP) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda arrived here Saturday for a three-day official visit and talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the official Middle East News Agency said. Mr. Mubarak welcomed his guest privately at Cairo airport and Mr. Kaunda was later given the official welcome at the Kubah presidential palace here. Official talks are scheduled to open Sunday and will deal with African affairs, the Middle East and bilateral relations, the agency added.

Saudi envoy arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The deputy commander of the Saudi Arabian National Guard, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Tuweijri, arrived Saturday to deliver a message from King Fahd to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Saudi sources said. The sources gave no details but said they believed the message was a follow-up to talks Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah had with Mr. Assad last week on the Middle East, including the Iran-Iraq war and prospects for a long-delayed Arab summit.

Portuguese plane held in India

NEW DELHI (R) — An aircraft bound for Sri Lanka is being detained in South India after it landed because it was running short of fuel, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The news agency quoted official sources as saying the plane was carrying arms and ammunition for Sri Lanka's security forces. PTI said the sources identified the DC-10 aircraft as belonging to Air Portugal and said it was loaded at Lisbon and stopped at Muscat before landing at Trivandrum, capital of Kerala state, Saturday morning.

Snow covers most of Britain

LONDON (AP) — Snow covered most of Britain on Saturday, closing three airports, including London's Gatwick, and blocking roads in Wales and Northern Ireland. The capital, where snow rarely falls, was smothered for the second time this winter as temperatures dropped to freezing in a return of the icy weather which swept across Britain and most of Northern Europe for more than a week in January. In Northern Ireland, the worst hit area, 1.5 metre snow drifts, driven by winds of up to 120 kph blocked dozens of rural roads. Dozens of flights were delayed or diverted as Gatwick airport, south of London, closed down. Central England's two major airports, Birmingham International and East Midlands, were also closed, officials reported.

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Ali says no results yet in Jordan-PLO talks

Hussein receives Mubarak's message

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak dealing with the latest political developments in the region and Jordanian-Egyptian coordination in moves in the international arena to find a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem.

The message, delivered by President Mubarak's special political adviser, Dr. Osama Al Baz, dealt with "Jordanian-Egyptian moves in the international arena to serve the Palestinian question and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Dr. Baz, who is also Egypt's first deputy foreign minister, was received by the King at the Royal Palace in Amman in a meeting attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oqas, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbe.

Dr. Baz arrived Saturday morning and was scheduled to leave for Cairo later in the day. King Hussein and President Mubarak will meet in Egypt before Mr. Mubarak's trip to Washington for talks with President Reagan next month, the Egyptian president said earlier this week.

The King has long been discussing a joint approach to Middle East peace efforts with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and Mr. Mubarak has supported the initiative since Jordan restored diplomatic ties with Cairo last year.

Ali: No results yet

Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali was quoted as saying Saturday the talks between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to forge a joint approach to peace efforts have produced no tangible results so far.

Mr. Ali, in an interview with the Cairo daily Al Gomhuriya, called on Israel to recognise the PLO, arguing that the organisation already has implicitly recognised the Jewish state by accepting the 1982 Arab peace plan adopted at a summit conference in Fez, Morocco.

Mr. Ali said coordination between Jordan and the PLO was "the starting point" for reactivation of stalled peace efforts. "The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue has been going on for a long time and has not resulted in anything specific until now," Mr. Ali told the newspaper.

This appeared at variance with a remark by President Mubarak to reporters last Wednesday. Mr. Mubarak said he believes "there has been concrete progress in the process of coordination between the PLO and Jordan."

"It is clear that the PLO in its new form has not taken a firm stand or has not yet reached a decision on the shape of (future) Jordanian-Palestinian relationship or a negotiating method in future (peace) talks," Mr. Ali said.

His mention of the PLO's "new form" apparently referred to last November's meeting in Amman of the Palestine National Council (PNC). The meeting was boycotted by pro-Syrian hardline factions.

King Hussein proposed to the PNC a joint PLO-Jordanian strategy based on trading territory

for peace in future negotiations with Israel.

The King proposed basing the Arab stand on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories. The PLO rejected this resolution on ground it failed to provide for a Palestinian homeland or self-determination.

"Israel should recognise the PLO because this is the only way to a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and it would facilitate many things," Mr. Ali said.

"The PLO's acceptance of the Fez resolutions was implicit recognition of Israel,"

The eight-point Fez peace plan, which called for an independent Palestinian state under PLO leadership, also provided for U.N. Security Council peace guarantees for "all countries" in the region. This was the point Mr. Ali had in mind.

Both Israel and the United States oppose an independent Palestinian state. Israel refuses to deal with the PLO, and the United States has said repeatedly it will not talk to the PLO until it publicly recognises Israel's right to exist.

Craxi: Clear stand essential

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said in an interview published Saturday that a clear Jordanian-Palestinian relationship was needed if the European Community was to contribute effectively to a Middle East settlement.

"To have an effective European movement (towards a settlement), there should be a clear Jordanian-Palestinian relationship," the newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat quoted him as saying.

"We should work for a peaceful settlement which would respect Israel's right to exist as well as the rights of the Palestinians," said Mr. Craxi, whose country currently chairs the European Community's (EC) Council of Ministers.

quoted the group as saying. "If the PLO authorities do not respond to our demands by releasing the two captured Lebanese, we will then have to blow up Cyprus and Libyan authorities in any country of the world."

The two Lebanese were arrested in June 1983 after hijacking a Romanian jetliner chartered by the Libyan government in an attempt to seek release of Imam Musa Sadr, founder of the Lebanese Shiite Muslim Amal movement.

Imam Sadr disappeared during an official visit to Libya in 1978. Cyprus Airways has suspended flights to Beirut following Thursday's incidents (See page 2).

French Defence Minister Charles Hernu was to speak later on his nation's role in NATO. U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger is to speak Sunday on the "Star Wars" plan.

Dr. Kohl, the opening speaker at the conference entitled "Changes in the Alliance," said President Reagan's space defence research programme, dubbed "Star Wars," was a "powerful incentive" for the Soviets to return to the arms-reduction negotiating table after 13 months.

Dr. Kohl said efforts to make defensive weapons more central to deterrence strategy would reduce the risk of war, but added, "A space-based defensive system must make full allowance for the strategic unity of the area embraced" by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser, Dr. Osama Al Baz, who delivered him a message from Mr. Mubarak (Petra photo)

Arabsat begins orbit after hitch-free launch

KOUROU, French Guiana (Agencies) — The Arab World's first communications satellite was orbiting the Earth Saturday following a successful launch by a European Ariane-3 rocket.

The 22-minute flight of the rocket, which also launched a Brazilian satellite, went without a hitch after lift-off shortly before midnight GMT Friday night from its jungle launch site in French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America.

Executives of the Arab and Brazilian projects expressed delight with the trouble-free mission, which marked another success for ArianeSpace, a European consortium which markets the Ariane launch services. The cost of the launch was between \$25 million and \$30 million for each satellite.

Alawi Karyal, Saudi Arabia's telecommunications minister, said he was "very happy, very excited," in a live transmission beamed from the launch site to the ArianeSpace headquarters in Evry, south of Paris.

"It's a success story in every aspect. Apart from being an important step forward for the Arab World, it demonstrates a successful exchange of technology with France," he added.

European space agency officials said Friday's launch was flawless and the two satellites were deployed on schedule by Ariane's

third stage.

A live transmission of the launch, beamed to the headquarters of the ArianeSpace company headquarters south of Paris, showed the Ariane-3 rocket soaring smoothly into the night sky with its twin payload.

Lift-off was timed at 8.22 p.m. local time (2322 GMT) and the two satellites were injected into geostationary orbit about 20 minutes later.

The 22-minute flight of the expendable launcher went without a hitch and the Arab satellite separated on schedule, followed 95 seconds later by the Brazilian satellite.

The Arabsat 1-A satellite, built principally by the French company Aerospatiale in Toulouse, will provide telephone, telex, television and radio transmissions for 23 members of the Arab League stretching from the Atlantic to the Gulf.

It is the first of three Arab satellites being built by Aerospatiale at a cost of \$134 million. The second is due to be launched by an American space shuttle later this year, while the third will be kept in reserve.

Brasilsat-1, the first of two satellites built by the Canadian company Spar Aerospace Limited, is designed to function for eight years and to provide similar services.

PFLP asks Lebanese to help protect Palestinians

BEIRUT (R) — A Damascus-based independent Palestinian group Saturday urged Syrian-backed "national forces" in Lebanon to cooperate with Palestinian forces to avert massacres in the refugee camps of South Lebanon.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash said there was "a Fascist-Zionist plan to commit massacres in Palestinian refugee camps" in the south.

There was a "joint Palestinian-Lebanese responsibility" to protect the refugees, it said in a statement telephoned to an international news agency in Beirut from a base in the Syrian-controlled eastern Bekaa Valley.

The PFLP did not say what Palestinian force should protect the camps when the Israelis leave South Lebanon. But it urged "increased cooperation and coordination" between the Palestinian revolution and all Lebanese national forces "to protect them and continue resisting the Israelis."

South Lebanon has five Palestinian camps with some 60,000 refugees, two of them housing 28,000 people in the Sidon area to be evacuated by Israel by Feb. 18 in the first stage of its withdrawal from South Lebanon.

The PFLP said there was a link between "terrorist campaigns" by Israeli troops against camps in South Lebanon and in the occupied West Bank.

It said 30 young men were seized by Israeli troops this week at the South Lebanese camp of Bourj Al Shemali near Tyre and 23 at Dahsheh camp.

The Israeli campaign against Palestinians in Lebanon was particularly aimed at "Alin Al Hilweh camp near Sidon, and Bourj Al Shemali and Rashidieh camps near Tyre," the statement added.

SLA men to leave Sidon week before Israelis quit

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — The head of an Israeli-sponsored militia in South Lebanon said Saturday he would pull his men out of Sidon, the region's largest city, a week before the Israeli army is scheduled to give up the region.

Former Lebanese Army Brig. Gen. Antoine Lahd, who heads the "South Lebanese Army (SLA)" militia that is sponsored and funded by Israel, told the Associated Press his men would maintain control only of a checkpoint in the Christian suburbs east of Sidon, another checkpoint in near Jezzine, and at one nearby crossing of the Awali River. Israel's present "front line" is at the town of Tyre.

Israel has said it intends to turn the Sidon area over to the SLA when it withdraws its occupation army Feb. 18 to a new line further south. The Lebanese government plans to send in the Lebanese army to take control.

Brig. Lahd claimed there were several factions that intended to "exploit" the Israeli partial withdrawal in cause "trouble" in the Sidon area.

There are forces that are gathering now in the Kharrub (region north of Sidon) made up of Amal (the Shiite Muslim militia), Palestinian dissidents and the Progressive Socialist Party preparing themselves to enter Sidon," Brig. Lahd said in an interview at his office. "All this evidence shows there will be trouble in Sidon."

He said he was withdrawing his men from Sidon itself Feb. 12 "to open it for the police and army. For them to prove they can maintain security." But he said he would remain in control of the Christian areas because "I can't evacuate a Christian area that is subject to danger before I see how active the Lebanese army is in and around Sidon."

Mr. Choi said the Kim party walked about 30 metres down the gangway into the terminal and then police asked Mr. Kim to board an elevator. Mr. Kim refused, saying he wanted to use normal entry procedures, and police moved in to separate the Kims from the Americans, who had located arms with the Korean dissident.

Police were "instructed not to use force, but to use their bodies" to disengage Mr. Kim from his supporters, Mr. Choi said.

Iraq, Iran trade charges on civilian attacks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq and Iran Saturday reported attacks on civilian areas following warnings by each country of retaliation if such strikes should continue in the 52-month-old Gulf war.

Iraq said in a high command communique that Iran shelled the border township of Al Shihabi on the central front and Al Mouza east of the southern port of Basra Saturday, killing a woman, wounding a child and demolishing three houses.

Iraq said four houses were destroyed Friday in the battered oil city of Abadan by long-distance Iraqi artillery. It reported no casualties.

Iran's President Ali Khamenei said Saturday Tehran would retaliate against Iraqi population centres if Baghdad did not stop attacks on civilian areas within 48 hours.

Referring to the reported Iranian attacks, Iraq in its communique Saturday said "the Iranian regime is responsible for this crime and will be punished at a time to be defined by Iraq." An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said Iraq would deal "two blows for one."

The Iranian report contained in a joint staff communique carried by the national news agency IRNA made no further mention of retaliatory attacks.

Tehran Radio, however, reported another communique assuring the armed forces and revolutionary guards corps had said they were fully prepared to bring Iraqi cities near the border under attack when Mr. Khamenei's deadline expired.

Each side has accused the other of breaking a U.N.-sponsored agreement last June not to attack civilian areas.

On the war front, Iraq said its planes flew 111 sorties against Iranian positions Saturday on the central and southern fronts, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment.

Efforts launched by the Arab Gulf states seek a peaceful end to the Iran-Iraq war appeared to take a new turn last week when the Kuwaiti foreign minister said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has pledged to use his influence with Tehran to end the conflict.

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Jordan honours outgoing Soviet envoy No M.E. solution without Soviet role, Masri says

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Saturday stressed the need for a Soviet participation in any future Arab-Israeli negotiations for a just and permanent solution to the Middle East conflict.

Speaking during the ceremonies held to present outgoing Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Rafik Nishanov the Istiqbal Medal of the First Order, bestowed upon him by His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Masri praised Moscow's support for Arab causes.

He emphasised "the identicalness of the Jordanian and Soviet policies vis-a-vis international and regional issues," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said in a dispatch.

The agency quoted Mr. Masri as underlining "the importance of a Soviet participation in any negotiations or (political) moves to find a just and permanent solution to the Middle East problem."

Responding to Mr. Masri's speech, Mr. Nishanov praised Jordanian-Soviet relations and reiterated his country's support of just and legitimate Arab causes, Petra said.

The United States had repeatedly opposed a Soviet participation in any future peace negotiations but said it would "policy level" consultations with the

Soviet Union on international issues including the Middle East problem.

A Jordanian call for the convening of a United Nations sponsored Middle East peace conference in which all parties involved would participate, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, was rejected by Israel and the United States.

U.S. officials were quoted recently as saying that a Soviet participation in Middle East peace talks would be "an obstacle" to reaching any peaceful settlement and that the "vast difference" in views vis-a-vis the Middle East between Washington and Moscow makes it "impossible" to reach an agreement.

Mr. Masri's statement Saturday came following the King's announcement last month of his intention to visit Moscow to discuss issues of mutual interests with Soviet officials.

No specific date was fixed for the King's visit.



Taher Al Masri

Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker announced late December that the Kingdom has reached an agreement to buy Soviet arms that are scheduled to start arriving here early this year.

The agreement was reached following the U.S. rejection last year to supply the Kingdom with "Stinger" anti-aircraft missiles needed for defence purposes.

The luncheon banquet hosted by Mr. Masri was attended by President of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society Bahjat Talhouh, President of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Rizk Bataineh and a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to Jordan.

Iranian opposition leader says strength increasing

AUVERS-SUR-OISE, France (AP) — Exiled Iranian opposition leader Massoud Rajavi said Saturday the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is in a "crisis situation" and the leftist Mujahadeen is increasingly affecting events in Iran.

In a tent on the grounds of the headquarters of the National Council of the Resistance, Mr. Rajavi told reporters that a study of the situation in Iran in the last three months showed that the Mujahadeen was gaining increasingly support.

The news conference was called to mark both the sixth year of the Iranian revolution which toppled Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and the third anniversary of the death of Mujahadeen guerrillas Moussa Khatibani, Rajavi's deputy, and the guerrilla leader's late wife, Ashraf Rahil. The two were killed Feb. 8, 1972 in an ambush by Revolutionary Guards.

The National Council of the Resistance had announced a week of action in memory of the two and there were marches by Mujahadeen supporters in a number of cities around the world on Friday.

Mr. Rajavi said Mujahadeen supporters had during the week taken action in 60 towns where

122 Revolutionary Guard vehicles were destroyed, nine military planes put out of action, 200 cases of disobedience at various military bases were carried out, and tens of thousands of slogans were hung up around the country.

Mr. Rajavi said 40,000 people have been executed in Iran since Khomeini came to power in February 1979, and 120,000 people have been imprisoned for political reasons.

He insisted that the National Council of the Resistance represents the best "alternative" to the Islamic regime now in power in Tehran.

Security at Mr. Rajavi's headquarters 40 kilometres north of Paris has been markedly scaled down, after a French government decision to remove the majority of the gendarmes and roadblocks which stopped normal traffic on the small street.

Four gendarmes carrying machineguns were seen Saturday outside the compound, and inside the Mujahadeen had installed their own metal detector.

Asked about the security, Mr. Rajavi said the Mujahadeen were willing to pay to maintain an adequate standard of security and also that, if asked, he would be prepared to leave France.

Assad assured of reelection

DAMASCUS (R) — Hafez Al Assad is assured of reelection for a third seven-year term as Syria's president when the country goes to the polls Sunday. His name is the only one on the ballot.

Thousands of people marched through Damascus Saturday to pledge support for Mr. Assad, president since 1971, as helicopters hovered overhead dropping leaflets urging a "yes" vote.

Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas meanwhile wrote in Saturday's edition of the government newspaper Tishrin: "We are with you, Hafez Assad. For the sake of the nation we shall fight under your wise leadership against injustice, Zionism, imperialism and reaction."

Western diplomats say Mr. Assad enjoys widespread popularity in this Socialist nation of 10 million people despite acknowledged severe economic problems.

The ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party last month held its first national congress for five years, and identified economic mismanagement and corruption as Syria's biggest problems.



GUARD OF HONOUR: Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Mr. Kaunda is in Cairo for a three-day visit (AP wirephoto). Kaunda review the guard of honour at Khbba Pal-

Chinese daily criticises Israel, U.S.

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party newspaper Saturday accused Israel of escalating tension on the West Bank of the Jordan and said Washington shared the blame.

Israel had recently increased its troops on the West Bank while accusing Jordan of being a centre of terrorist activity, the People's Daily said in a commentary.

"Everybody knows the tense situation on the West Bank and in

Gaza is created not by others but by Israel", it said.

It said Israel had driven out Palestinians, set up Jewish settlements and promoted plans to make the West Bank Jewish.

"Israel's decision to increase troops on the West Bank is a scheme to obstruct the establishment of a Palestinian state there and to threaten Jordan, forcing it to abandon support for the Palestinian cause," the paper said.

Before Israel decided to step up its military presence, the United States had agreed to give Israel large amounts of military and economic aid.

"If the Israeli authorities further worsen the West Bank situation and their serious measures to threaten Jordan then America cannot escape the blame," the paper added.

Turkey urges NATO to expel Greece

WASHINGTON (AP) — Turkish Ambassador Sukru Elekdog said that Greece's anti-American and anti-Turkish policies should cause the Western allies to decide whether it should be allowed to remain in NATO.

"One must now ask what possible alliance purpose is served by Greece's continued membership," Mr. Elekdog told the annual conference of the American Friends of Turkey. "I think it is high time for the alliance to face up to this dilemma and to address it realistically."

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu "accuses the United States of being the Mecca of imperialism and praises the Soviet Union for being the bulwark of genuine peace," he said.

Mr. Elekdog read a British report that Soviet advisers were helping the Greek army's construction service in the use and maintenance contract signed last July and that questioned whether NATO secrets in Greek hands are being used.

The Greek government committed another "outrage" last month by announcing a new defence policy that cites Turkey, not the Soviet bloc, as the threat to Greece's security, Mr. Elekdog said.

As a result, he said, Greece has begun redeploying its troops from

defences against the Warsaw Pact to the border with Turkey. Mr. Papandreu continues to reject Turkish offers to negotiate or arbitrate their differences, Mr. Elekdog said.

George Papoulas, Greek ambassador to the United States, on Thursday complained that actions by Turkey since the 1951 had undermined Greece's reasons for remaining in NATO.

"Instead of enhancement of our security and protection of our legitimate national interests far-reaching changes have been brought about to our detriment," Mr. Papoulas said.

Turkey, he said, has occupied part of Cyprus since 1974 and has deployed its 4th Army since 1975 along its west coast, across from the Greek islands. The army, he said, had been built up to a force of 120,000 despite Turkish claims that it is a skeleton training unit.

Mr. Elekdog said the Turkish threat to Greece was "imaginary" and that Mr. Papandreu is claiming to destroy NATO's European defence strategy.

The deployment of troops along the border of another member of the alliance is "in total contravention of the underlying reason of NATO's existence," he said.

"NATO is a collective defence system founded with the main

objective of safeguarding the security of its member states against the Soviet threat, and as in any politico-military alliance, agreement with this central objective of NATO is the first and foremost condition for membership," Mr. Elekdog said.

He said Turkey is essential to the defence of NATO and that the major NATO priority should be modernising the Turkish Armed Forces, which are still equipped with World War II-era weapons.

However, Mr. Elekdog said, "because of the effectiveness of the very active anti-Turkish lobbies in this country, there is a tendency in some political circles to challenge what should be obvious and familiar elements of Turkey's strategic and military importance."

"The well-financed Greek lobby" in the United States seeks to impose a 7-to-10 ratio on military aid to the two countries, with Greece to receive \$7 for every \$10 going to Turkey, he said.

"Such a ratio of course is totally arbitrary and utterly disregards the great disparity between the NATO assigned missions and responsibilities of the two countries and the means required to fulfil them," Mr. Elekdog said.

Cyprus Airways suspends Beirut flights

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus Airways has indefinitely suspended its flights to Beirut following the seizure of one of its planes by masked gunmen, the company chairman has said.

"Yes, we have suspended our flights," Chairman Stavros Galatiotis told Reuters Friday. "It is because of last night and we are

reviewing the whole security situation in Beirut."

"The suspension is indefinite, but we will review it in about a week's time," he added.

At least 15 masked gunmen seized a Cyprus Airways Boeing 707 at Beirut Airport Thursday night and demanded the release of two

Lebanese serving a seven-year jail term in Cyprus for a hijacking in 1983.

The nine crew and three Lebanese engineers of the Dutch Airline KLM who were on board were released unharmed after a six-hour drama and the gunmen escaped.

Israel practising oppression, intimidation in South Lebanon

PARIS (Petra) — Israel is practising daily "oppression and intimidation" against Arab civilians in South Lebanon, according to the Paris-based International Centre for Information on Lebanese and Palestinian Detainees in Israeli Prisons.

A statement issued by the centre on Friday said that Western press and media treat such news with indifference because of "overwhelming Zionist propaganda."

The statement said that Israeli measures against Lebanese and Palestinian citizens in South Lebanon "take the shape of collective arrests and detention, besiegement of cities, villages and

refugee camps and firing at civilians which leads to clashes between the occupation forces and the inhabitants of South Lebanon."

The statement added that the centre will hold an international seminar in Paris to inform the world on these Israeli measures in the occupied territories which violate international laws that call for the protection of civilians under occupation.

The seminar will also call on the international community to exert pressure on Israel to withdraw its forces from South Lebanon and release all Palestinian and Lebanese detainees.

Arab Economic, Social Council to meet Feb. 25

TUNIS (Petra) — The Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC) will hold its 38th meeting on Feb. 25 at the ministerial level, a senior Arab League official said Saturday.

Assistant Arab League Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Abdul Mahsen Zalzaleh said that the meeting will adopt a unified Arab stand towards the American and European policies aimed at aborting the Arab boycott of Israel.

Dr. Zalzaleh added that the American and European procedures "are aimed at achieving a high degree of organic integration with the Israeli economy through enacting new rulings and establishing a free trade area."

These measures, Dr. Zalzaleh said are capable of enhancing the Israeli ability to continue its aggression against the Arab Nation

and relieve its deteriorating economy from the crisis it is passing through.

Speaking about the establishment of the free trade area, Dr. Zalzaleh said it is a beginning for restructuring the Israeli economy and a new trend for concentrating on highly technological industries.

The Economic and Social Council "considered this project as Western tool designed to confront Arab countries and a flagrant violation of the Arab regional security," Dr. Zalzaleh said.

"Dangers of such a project would be studied deliberately and in detail by an Arab expert working group, headed by me," Dr. Zalzaleh said.

The findings will be submitted to the 38th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, added.

Ethiopia reportedly moving famine victims by force

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — An International Red Cross official confirmed Saturday that about 200 famine victims in Ethiopia were taken at gunpoint from an emergency feeding centre and sent to work on the construction of a dam.

The Red Cross official, reached by telephone in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, said the incident occurred Tuesday at Mekelle, capital of the troubled northern region of Tigré.

He said the Mekelle Feeding Programme was suspended and that Ethiopian authorities were asked for an explanation.

Efforts to reach Ethiopian officials for comment on the report were unsuccessful. Spokesmen for the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission were not in their offices when contacted by telephone.

The incident comes at a time when Western governments donating food to help famine victims are trying to determine how voluntary Ethiopia's resettlement

scheme is.

Head of state Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam has set a target of shifting 1.5 million people a year from drought-stricken regions of the eastern African nation to more fertile areas in the south and southwest.

It was not clear whether the 200 people were moved to a resettlement site, said the Red Cross official, who declined to be interviewed because it might affect "sensitive" consultations on incidents.

"We did not follow them," said. "The main thing that happened is that some 200 people have been taken away by armed elements and we had to stop distribution of food." Red Cross regulations say the humanitarian agency cannot operate in the presence of guns.

He did not further identify those who took the drought victims away.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz	639, 720, 1413 KHz
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FOREIGN CHANNEL	6:00 Newsweek 6:30 On The Road 6:45 Newsweek 7:00 On The Road 7:15 Newsweek 7:30 On The Road 7:45 Newsweek 8:00 On The Road 8:15 Newsweek 8:30 On The Road 8:45 Newsweek 9:00 On The Road 9:15 Newsweek 9:30 On The Road 9:45 Newsweek 10:00 On The Road 10:15 Newsweek 10:30 On The Road 10:45 Newsweek 11:00 On The Road 11:15 Newsweek 11:30 On The Road 11:45 Newsweek 12:00 On The Road 12:15 Newsweek 12:30 On The Road 12:45 Newsweek 13:00 On The Road 13:15 Newsweek 13:30 On The Road 13:45 Newsweek 14:00 On The Road 14:15 Newsweek 14:30 On The Road 14:45 Newsweek 15:00 On The Road 15:15 Newsweek 15:30 On The Road 15:45 Newsweek 16:00 On The Road 16:15 Newsweek 16:30 On The Road 16:45 Newsweek 17:00 On The Road 17:15 Newsweek 17:30 On The Road 17:45 Newsweek 18:00 On The Road 18:15 Newsweek 18:30 On The Road 18:45 Newsweek 19:00 On The Road 19:15 Newsweek 19:30 On The Road 19:45 Newsweek 20:00 On The Road 20:15 Newsweek 20:30 On The Road 20:45 Newsweek 21:00 On The Road 21:15 Newsweek 21:30 On The Road 21:45 Newsweek 22:00 On The Road 22:15 Newsweek 22:30 On The Road 22:45 Newsweek 23:00 On The Road 23:15 Newsweek 23:30 On The Road 23:45 Newsweek 24:00 On The Road
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07:00 Light Music	07:00 Newsweek
07:30 Morning Show	07:30 Newsweek
08:00 News Summary	08:00 Newsweek
08:30 Pop Session	08:30 Newsweek
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
Design and Industry exhibition at Yarmouk University Gymnasium 9:00-12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 from 6th to 16th February.	An exhibition of books and publications on the teaching of English, organised by the British Council, at the University of Jordan Language Centre.
Plastic Arts Exhibition at University of Jordan, Faculty of Student Affairs on February 10, 11 and 12.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	CHURCHES
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590
American Centre 44371	Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, 37440
British Council 36147-3	St. Saba Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, 25383
French Cultural Centre 37009	Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 25383
Goethe Institute 41993	Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 77521
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203	Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 77521
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049	St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 77171
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777	Assyrian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, 816534
Haya Arts Centre 665195	
Russian Youth City 667181	
Y.W.C.A. 41793	
Amman Municipal Library 36111	
University of Jordan Library 64355	
MUSEUMS	PRAYER TIMES
Feldberg Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	06:30 Sunrise
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	06:45 Sunrise
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum, Jabal Al-Lawzeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.	07:00 Sunrise
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

MARITIME TRAFFIC

This information is supplied by Air Jordan information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 53230, 53700, 53702, 53711, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:30	Agaba (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
09:45	Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20	Beirut (RJ)
10:35	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
10:30	Tripoli, Larnaca (LV)
10:40	Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	Cairo, Agaba (KU)
17:35	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:40	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
18:00	London (RJ)
18:05	Paris, Rome (AF)
19:00	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:25	Beirut (MEA)
20:40	London (BA)
22:00	Baghdad (IA)
22:20	Cairo (MS)
01:10	Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:50	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00	Beirut (RJ)
07:15	Agaba (RJ)
08:00	Damascus, Rome (AF)
08:45	Beirut (MEA)
09:00	Damascus, Rome (AZ)
10:45	Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
11:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:45	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:45	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30	Larnaca, Tripoli (LV)
15:40	Kuwait (KU)
19:30	Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
19:30	Kuwait (RJ)
19:40	Dhahran (RJ)
20:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45	Dubai (RJ)
20:45	Cairo (RJ)
21:00	Abu Dhabi, Singapore (RJ)
21:10	Baghdad (RJ)
21:45	Baghdad, London (BA)
22:00	Basoglu (RJ)
23:00	Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (JA)
23:00	Cairo (MS)
00:45	Larnaca, Berlin (IF)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy, especially in the north and central parts of the country, with scattered showers and westerly moderate to fresh winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Lowish temperature in deg. C.

Amman	8/21
Agaba	8/20
Desert	1/13
Jordan Valley	7/18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 42, Agaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 68 per cent, Agaba 27 per cent.

No Christmas in Bethlehem last year

Retired U.S. Vice Admiral Marmaduke Bayne, who is also a former president of National Defence University, and Mrs. Bayne recently concluded a visit to the West Bank and submitted a sad account of their experience to the Christian Science Monitor. Following is the full text of the report.

MY WIFE and I waited for Christmas this year with keen anticipation. We were to spend it in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, visiting the Christian Holy Places, attempting to better understand the events of two thousand years ago; events which have conditioned the lives and manners of mankind more than any other.

Our Christmas was destroyed. When one is body searched twice in ten minutes before being allowed to visit the birthplace of Jesus, there develops a feeling of wrong, of evil, of disgust and pity. The atmosphere, far from dignified and spiritual, was, in my wife's words, "Gestapo and threatening." I had been there three years ago. The time was not at

Christmas, and the odious herding and constant, unnecessary inspection, was not then evident.

Our plans to worship at the birthplace of our Lord prevented by the uncaring, rude, arrogant actions of battle-dressed young men and women carrying automatic weapons, we attempted as objectively as possible to assess reasons for the excessive control.

Surely the troops of boy and girl scouts marching past the barricades into Nativity Square were not threatening; nor was the slow procession of Franciscans as they made their way into the Square; nor it seemed in us was the small group of Christians who had come from all parts of the world to pay their respects. Yet each of us was

herded into controlled lines, required to pass through electronic detectors, and at the whim of any soldier to snap our cameras to prove they were not bombs.

Given that this part of the world breeds terrorism, that the publicised intention of Prime Minister Peres of Israel to visit the Holy Places during Christmas required care and caution; given the palpable hostility between Arabs and Jews; there still seemed to us no consequent need for the degree of inspection and rudeness we experienced. You could not escape the feeling that Christmas was being violated deliberately. Here was an opportunity to show the control of Israeli militia. It was demonstrated with all the power and authority of a Genghis Khan.

On one occasion, when the way to the Grotto was blocked by barricades, I made my way to an Israeli officer standing on a pla-

form overlooking Nativity Square and asked what could be done to get to the Grotto. I mentioned that we had come half way around the world to pay our respects to our God, and were deprived of the opportunity. He looked coldly down at me, turned on his heel and walked away, saying over his shoulder, "Try harder." A bit later one of the barricades was removed allowing a single line to move towards the Birthplace.

At a checkpoint leading to the Grotto, a young Arab, pushed against me by the berding soldiers, asked if I was American. He then asked if I would hold his two "lucky" United States dollars because he was not allowed to have U.S. currency. He would be jailed if they found it, he said. I kept his money until we had completed the inspection.

Undoubtedly, the Israeli explanation for all this would be that

repetitive controls are necessary to prevent the outbreak of violence at large gatherings, to forestall opportunities to plant bombs or take some other anti-Israeli action. There is logic in such explanations, but they fail to consider that the excessive application of these controls in bringing the reservoir of hate and repressed anger to an explosive point.

We came away from our Christmas in Bethlehem feeling that an evil was there, not the good that we had come to find. Later, when we saw television broadcasts of the midnight Mass, we saw no evidence of the military. That selective television view generates the general thought and feeling in our own country about this part of the world. Our Christmas in Bethlehem convinces us that it is not that way at all.

Only road into Gibraltar crosses airport runway

By Brian Mooney
Reuter

GIBRALTAR — The rock of Gibraltar is visible from miles away by land and sea but the first thing a visitor is likely to notice when driving over the frontier from Spain is that the road runs straight across the airport runway.

Gibraltarians proudly say that only two people have been killed by planes since the airport was built in World War II on the isthmus linking the rock to the Spanish mainland.

The road, with a Vulcan bomber parked at one end, is guarded like a railway crossing, with barriers and lights to halt road traffic when the runway is in use.

Like more than half of the British colony's 5.8 square kilometres, the airport is run by the British Armed Forces, which has about 4,000 servicemen and their dependants here.

Gibraltar commands the divide between the Atlantic and Mediterranean and has been garrisoned since it was fortified by the Arabs in A.D. 711.

The highest point on the central spine rises 420 metres above sea level and provides a virtually impregnable control point for sea traffic passing the 22-kilometre wide strait between Europe and Africa.

Inside the rock, there are 56

kilometres of chambers, some packed with ultra-modern communications and monitoring equipment that are closed to the public.

The last of the big tunnels was gouged out of the limestone during World War II to house an entire battalion. The rubble was used to build the airport on reclaimed land.

Britain captured Gibraltar from Spain in 1704. It was ceded to Britain in perpetuity in the treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

Britain has ruled the colony since, though it has violated a number of the provisions of the treaty, including one stating it must allow neither Moors nor Jews to live in the city.

Arabs, Jews, Portuguese, Maltese, Genoese, Spaniards, Britons and Indians make up the colony's 27,000 native inhabitants today, a mixture that has evolved into a unique cricket-playing Mediterranean society.

The law, customs and many traditions are British but the Lingua Franca is a form of Spanish known as Llanito.

The colony has an elected government that is responsible solely for domestic affairs and local defence.

There is a local daily newspaper, the Gibraltar Chronicle, first published in 1801, and a tel-

evision station where sports reports in winter are based on British League soccer matches.

Gibraltarians enjoy a standard of living akin to that of northern Europe but the colony is in some respects behind the times.

The residential area is confined mainly to the western edge of the rock, where crammed housing creates the most dense population in Western Europe. At last count there were also 201 drinking houses, many reminiscent of English pubs.

The architecture is a graceful blend of 18th and 19th century English with a touch of Andalusian and Moorish.

The colony is steeped in history — with synagogues, mosques, Arab baths, fortifications, the cemetery where some of the dead from the battle of Trafalgar lie and numerous monuments.

Gibraltar, on which more than 600 species of flora are found, can be scaled by mountaineers on its sheer faces but also provides easier access to its summit by a steep path or cable car.

Tradition has it that the rock will remain British as long as barbers apes roam its upper ledges.

War-time leader Sir Winston Churchill took the tradition seriously enough to ensure that the apes were bountifully fed.

Channel link comes back into favour

The age-old dream of a direct road/rail link between Britain and France is being revived, but Andrew Taylor reports that the gap between enthusiasm for the idea and actually finding the money — especially without government aid — is still wide.

IT may, after all, be possible to drive direct from London to Paris before the end of this century. Suddenly the idea of a fixed link across the Channel is back in political favour.

The most tangible result of this new found enthusiasm is that British and French civil servants have at last been able to start work on preparing guidelines. These, they hope, will provide the basis for a development project which both governments insist must be financed entirely by private investment. It is a large mountain to climb.

Promoters of cross Channel schemes face problems in two main areas: the political requirements which both governments will want satisfied; and the very tough commercial criteria on which banks or other investors will insist before parting with any money.

Three schemes have been proposed: a bridge, a tunnel and a combination of both. Their promoters — representing leading British and French industrial, construction and banking interests — have estimated costs at between £2 billion and £5 billion at 1983 prices. (The average value of sterling in 1983 was \$1.5158.) Rates of return of up to nine per cent, after taking into account forecast inflation rates, have been suggested by the promoters.

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bridges and tunnels across the Channel — accepts that special tax concessions might conflict with government financial targets. But he argues that it may be necessary to consider some kind of large public share or bond issue to underwrite the finances of the project and overcome the bank's reluctance.

The second stage, of trying to establish real commercial credibility for both the project and its sponsors, is likely to prove very difficult.

Mr. Ray Douse, a director of Hill Samuel, the London based merchant bank with wide experience of raising finance for large international projects, sums up the problems: "The private sector has successfully funded massive developments, such as the construction of the trans-Alaskan pipeline in the 1970s.

"However, if financial markets are to advance large sums for a high risk venture, without the safety-net of government financial guarantees, they will expect to see

"Currently the most glaring omission from the various attempts to deliver a privately funded Channel crossing is the lack of suitable equity sponsors. It is rather like trying to put on a production of Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark," he adds.

Some supporters of the project have suggested that it could be financed by giant corporate bond issues, like those made by U.S. bodies such as the New York Port Authority. They have a long tradition of successfully harnessing private investors' money to pay for infrastructure projects.

But a Channel link is on a very much larger scale. The company that runs it will be one of the top 20 businesses in the U.K. or France. This will require the strongest possible sponsor-owners, able if necessary to shoulder the burden of completion guarantees.

"Financial projections, forecasts of investment returns and technical feasibility studies will also have to be extremely robust to withstand the most critical scrutiny if investors are to justify putting their money into a scheme which can take 8 to 10 years from planning to completion — enough time for several changes of gov-

ernment and for two periods each of economic boom and recession," says Mr. Sykes.

And it could cost as much as £80 million just to pay for the detailed technical and financial studies which will be required to test the actual viability of the project.

One of the most common causes of failure in giant projects is the failure of sponsors to recognise how high these preliminary costs can be — the cost of this work is usually in the range of two to five per cent of total forecast capital cost. For a £4 billion scheme, says Mr. Sykes, this could mean £80 million.

"I am not trying to be negative, just realistic about what needs to be done," adds Mr. Sykes, who is not alone in wondering if there are companies willing to make this kind of investment.

Sir Nigel Brackes, along with other promoters of Channel schemes, believes the excitement the project will generate plus the high rates of returns which he believes will be achieved will overcome the reservations of investors. He has not ruled out the possibility of his company taking a stake in a fixed link development.

The reaction of one banker per-

haps best expresses the current views of the financial markets. "I have yet to see a white elephant fly," he says. But he does not want to be identified, just in case he is wrong and the scheme goes ahead. He does not, after all, want to prejudice the chance that his bank might win a lucrative slice of any financing business — Financial Times news feature.

It is still all right on the night at the Scala

Alan Friedman goes backstage at La Scala, Milan's glittering opera house where confusion and impending financial chaos make the final success of every star-studded performance a very Italian experience.

MILAN — The flash-bulbs exploded, the television cameras whirled, a few hundred protesters stood outside in the Piazza Scala, chanting slogans and hurling eggs. "This is like the old days," remarked the chairman of a large Italian company as he entered the glittering foyer of Milan's Scala Opera House.

Last month's season premiere at the Scala, with Placido Domingo in Carmen and Prime Minister Bettino Craxi greeting old friends, did seem a throwback to the old days. The interior of the Opera House — six tiers of boxes — was festooned in flowers and there were more designer evening gowns present than at any major fashion show.

Supreme social and operative event it may have been, but the story behind the scenes at La Scala is very different. It is a tale of incredible chaos, poor organisation, political interference and near financial ruin — all of which of course can be forgotten when maestro Abbado lifts his baton.

Some of the problems reflect the situation facing opera at any major house, be it Covent Garden or the Met. But mostly, La Scala's chaos reflects a peculiarly Italian situation, and it is not a pretty story. Italy's weekly panorama magazine recently likened its management to the five-party co-

alition government of Mr. Craxi: "composed of crumbling pasta."

Politics rank alongside money as a major problem. La Scala, Milan's emblem and its pride, is one of 13 state theatres which survive on state subsidies from Rome. The president of the Scala is Milan's Socialist Mayor, Mr. Carlo Tognoli. But the Milan city government is a coalition of Socialists, Communists and Social Democrats, with constant tension and infighting between Socialists and Communists. The same is true at La Scala.

Mr. Carlo Maria Badini, La Scala's superintendent for the past seven years, is a Socialist. His number two, Mr. Cesare Mazzoni, the artistic director, is a Communist. At almost every level of the opera house and especially when it comes to choosing personnel for key posts, politics play a part.

"The politicians stick their noses into our affairs all too frequently. They don't really try and dictate an artistic line. They simply involve us in their power struggle," complains Maestro Mazzoni.

The political tension is palpable: When two years ago Mayor Tognoli wanted to use the Opera House to celebrate the anniversary of famous Italian artists, his Communist coalition partners

blocked it. In recent years an opposition Liberal party member of the Milan Commune has been trying to force the dismissal of Mr. Carlo Mezzadri, head of the public affairs office and a Communist.

Mr. Mezzadri was actually given the sack on Oct. 31, amid complaints from the editorial board of the Corriere della Sera newspaper that he had allegedly interfered with publication of an article on the Scala. Dr. Mazzoni will say only: "The management of the Scala lost confidence in Mr. Mezzadri."

The "Mezzadri Affair" has dragged on, and recently a Labour Tribunal ordered that he be reinstated, something which seems unlikely to occur.

Meanwhile, labour troubles with the 107-strong chorus and 136-person orchestra (both second to none according to the critics) are a recurring problem. Last minute changes of programmes are frequent.

Meanwhile, says Mr. Caggiani, perusing his list of 850 full-time employees, scenery makers and outside contractors, "we will just delay paying our creditors as long as we can."

The Scala's loss last year is expected to total around 1.2 billion, half the size of the 1983 deficit. Ticket prices have been increased by 10 per cent and better attendances at non-opera events are hoped for.

In 1983, in a move which caused

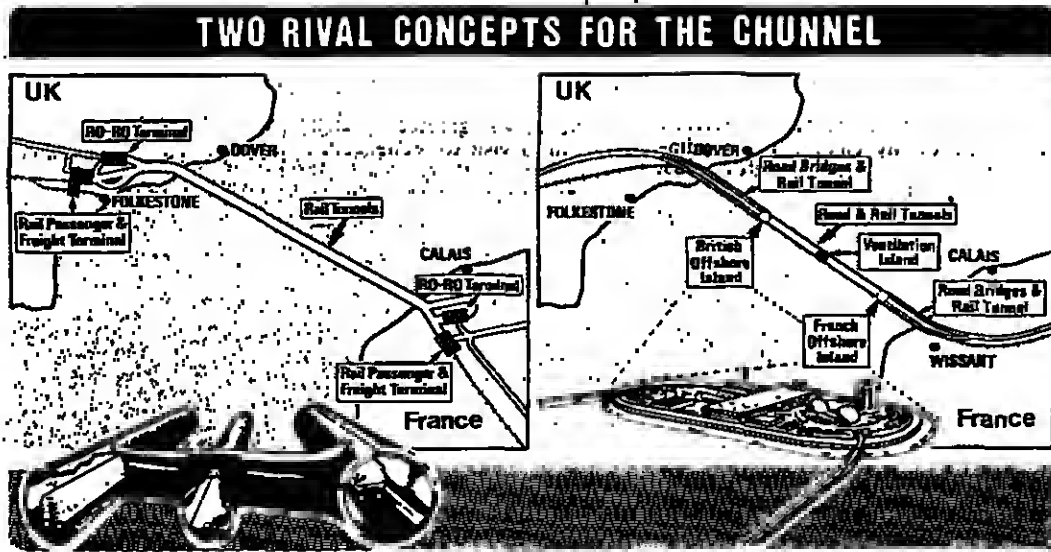
one foreign banker to mutter darkly about "blackmail", the Scala decided to impose a novel levy on corporate subscriptions. Around one quarter of the 2,000 seats are filled by companies who use their boxes to lavish a little hospitality on guests. The Scala told corporate subscribers in 1983 that, in addition to their 1.6 million season boxes, they would be charged a further 1.10 million for "using boxes for public relations purposes."

So efforts are being made to remedy the chronic financial woes. But the prospects for the future are not bright.

Mr. Guido Agnina, the deputy mayor of Milan in charge of cultural affairs, says the Scala is "too important to be treated this way." But he admits that the opera house is often manipulated for political reasons and reckons "there are no prospects for real financial health."

And yet, despite it all, something magical happens every time the curtain goes up. "I call it the Scala-miracle. Everything comes together just at the last minute," comments Maestro Mazzoni.

The miracle keeps on happening, and in some ways the opera house is a microcosm of the state of controlled anarchy which is Italy itself — one always wonders how it can function, and yet it does — remarkably well — Financial Times news feature.



WATER AUTHORITY RAMTHA WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT NO. R3/34/85

- The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified as General and First Class Water and Sewerage Contractors and General Class Roads and Buildings Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of Ramtha Contract No. R3, Waste Water Reclamation Facilities. Non-Jordanian contractors are encouraged to associate with qualified Jordanian contractors. The project consists of headworks, administration building, anaerobic, facultative and maturation ponds, chlorination system, and irrigation recycle pump station, equipment and system.
- A prebid conference will be held on Saturday, March 9th, 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.
- On March 9th, 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm or on the firms of the joint venture requested in the instructions to bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.
- The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on March 25th, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.
- Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

Water Authority
Jabel Hussein
Nablus Street
P.O. Box 2412,
Amman - Jordan.

Telephone 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ JO.

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 100 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 50 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank check.

President
Engineer M.S. Kilani

WATER AUTHORITY AJLOUN - EIN JANNEH WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT NO. K1/35/85

- The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified as General and First Class Water and Sewerage Contractors and General Class Roads and Buildings Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of the Ajloun-Ein Janneh Contract K1 Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection System. Non-Jordanian contractors are encouraged to associate with qualified Jordanian contractors. The project consists of the supply and construction of about 25.5 km. of water mains ranging in diameter from 80mm to 200mm and of about 6.0 km of galvanised pipes ranging from 1/2" to 1 1/2" and supply and construction of about 41 km of sewer mains ranging in size from 150mm to 600mm and storm water facilities and protection works.
- A prebid conference will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.
- On March 2nd, 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm or on the firms of the joint venture requested in the instructions to bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.
- The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on 18 March, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.
- Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

Water Authority
Jabel Hussein
Nablus Street
P.O. Box 2412,
Amman - Jordan.

Telephone 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ JO.

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 100 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 50 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank check.

President
Engineer M.S. Kilani

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- A prebid conference will be held on Thursday 7th March, 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.
- On March 7th, 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm or on the firms of the joint venture requested in the instructions to bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.
- The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on 28th March 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.
- Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

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Jabel Hussein
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P.O. Box 2412,
Amman - Jordan.

Telephone 666111
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The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 100 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 50 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank check.

President
Engineer M.S. Kilani

British and French industrial, construction and banking interests — have estimated costs at between £2 billion and £5 billion at 1983 prices. (The average value of sterling in 1983 was \$1.5158.) Rates of return of up to nine per cent, after taking into account forecast inflation rates, have been suggested by the promoters.

Whatever the costs and merits of the rival schemes — an Anglo-French banking study last year estimated that the maximum debt could rise as high as £50 billion — they will not be able to go ahead without proper political guidelines.

The most crucial single area is the wording of political guarantees designed to prevent either the British or the French governments from halting the project once work has started, or from interfering with free scales once set. No one has forgotten that in January 1975 the incoming Labour government unilaterally abandoned work on a Channel tunnel only months after it had started.

Beyond these, financiers will demand guarantees from government and promoters that the vital arithmetic of the project will not be drastically altered by delays either at the design or the construction stage. British developers are acutely aware how costs have spiralled in major public-sector developments, like the Thames Barrier and the Isle of Grain power station.

Moreover, promoters of a Channel link cannot expect any assistance from government in the form of special tax concessions to help fund-raising. Officials are expected to rule out measures like tax-free bonds when they make their guideline recommendations to both governments at the end of February, if only because Britain is still adamant that no taxpayers' money should find its way into the project.

Sir Nigel Brackes, chairman of Trafalgar House, the British construction, property and shipping group — and a leading supporter of the plan to put a combination of

substantial owner operators prepared to back their judgment with their own money. Investors would have to be of sufficient stature to convince financiers that they would have the expertise, organisation and financial wherewithal to step in if things started to go wrong.

"In the case of the Alaskan pipeline, money was advanced on the security and commercial record of large successful oil companies with worldwide incomes which were able to guarantee the project would be completed."

"However, if financial markets are to advance large sums for a high risk venture, without the safety net of government financial guarantees, they will expect to see substantial owner operators prepared to back their judgment with their own money. Investors would have to be of sufficient stature to convince financiers that they would have the expertise, organisation and financial wherewithal to step in if things started to go wrong."

By contrast a fixed link across the Channel is a single high risk project, with a single source of income. Such a link would have no intrinsic value other than the purpose for which it was designed; there would be no intermediate stage in development when investors could call a halt and achieve some kind of return, or get back money spent.

"No company would want to invest more than 10 per cent of its market capitalisation in a single project, so we are looking for companies with a market capitalisation of around £1 billion, such as GEC and RTZ," says Mr. Allen Sykes who was head of project valuation for RTZ when it was involved with the abortive Channel tunnel attempt in 1975 — and is now a director of Willis Faber, the insurance group.

Snow, ice disrupt English League

United loses ground

LONDON (R) — Manchester United lost the chance of making up valuable ground in the race for the English first division soccer title when they could only draw 1-1 at Newcastle Saturday, but the real winner overall was the weather.

Snow and ice returned with a vengeance, wiping out 24 games in England — nine in the first division.

Second division Sheffield United managed to beat the weather but their match with Oldham still had to be called off after the discovery of an unexploded World War II bomb near the ground.

There was no such excitement in the two games which survived the weather in the first division. Manchester United led thanks to a goal, following a corner, from defender Kevin Moran in the 44th minute. But Peter Beardsley grabbed an equaliser 10 minutes from time.

The draw means United stay in third place but are seven points behind leaders Everton, who have a game in hand.

In the other first division match, Nottingham Forest beat Queens Park Rangers 2-0 and moved up one place to seventh, 10 points behind the leaders.

More than 150 volunteers, including striking miners, helped clear snow from the pitch before the game. They had to wait 79

minutes before Steve Hodge made it all worthwhile, with Dutchman Johnny Metgod sealing Rangers' fate four minutes from the end.

Sheffield United apart, the second division fared reasonably well with six games surviving. Blackburn, one of four teams at the top on 49 points before Saturday's matches, went three points clear after a 2-1 win over Fulham.

Blackburn led after 13 minutes thanks to Jimmy Quinn. The Londoners equalised through Cliff Carr in the 71st minute, but Chris Thompson got the winner eight minutes later.

Manchester City, who started the day level with Blackburn, were surprisingly beaten at home by lowly Carlisle. City even had the encouragement of a second minute goal from David Phillips, but Malcolm Poskett (eighth minute and 83rd) and Ian Bishop (57th) clinched it for Carlisle.

All five Scottish Premier Division games were played. Leaders Aberdeen dropped a point in a 2-2 draw at home to Hearts, after leading 2-0.

Kasparov narrows Karpov's lead

MOSCOW (R) — World chess title contender Garry Kasparov cut further into Anatoly Karpov's winning margin Saturday when he beat the champion in game 48 of the long-running duel.

It was Kasparov's second win in a row and took the score to 5-3, showing he will not let Karpov retain his title easily even though he needs just one more victory.

When play resumed Saturday on move 41 after Friday night's adjournment, Kasparov wasted no time in capitalising on his piece advantage and removing a cluster of pawns and his king until Karpov resigned on move 67. The series began on September 10.

With that pawn gone, Kasparov, 21, moved inexorably to victory, advancing a cluster of pawns and his king until Karpov resigned on move 67. The series began on September 10.

Lewis makes it 40 wins in a row

LOS ANGELES (R) — Olympic champion Carl Lewis of the United States won his 40th successive long jump competition when he leaped 8.27 metres at the 26th annual Los Angeles Times Indoor Games Friday night.

Lewis, unbeaten in the long jump indoors or out since February 27, 1981, is just one victory short of the record established by American George Brown between 1950 and 1952.

Lewis achieved his feat on the day Soviet track-and-field athletes made their first appearance in Los Angeles since before their boycott of the 1984 Olympics here.

Three Soviet competitors took part. Irina Podolovskaya was the most successful, finishing third in the women's 1,000 yards in two minutes 27.06 seconds.

Just as they did at the Olympics, Romania's women showed up strongly with three wins. Olympic 800-metre gold medalist Doina Melinte won the 1,000 yards in

2:25.97. Anisoara Cusmir-Stancu repeated her Olympic triumph by winning the long jump with 6.34 metres and Fita Lovin took the 1,500 metres in 4:13.66.

Valerie Brisco-Hooks, who won three golds at the Los Angeles Olympics, easily won the women's 500 yards in 1:04.76. Irishman Ray Flynn was another impressive winner taking the mile in 3:56.16 ahead of Britain's Jack Buckner whose 3:58.07 was a British indoor record.

Dan Ripley of the United States won the pole vault with a jump of 5.6 metres. Russian vaulter Konstantin Volkov, the Soviet Friendship Games champion, had a disappointing competition, failing three times at 5.35 metres.

Robert Verbeek of Belgium won the men's two miles in 8:33.70, heating U.S. steeplechase champion Henry Marsh who clocked at 8:34.45. In the seldom-staged women's triple jump, Yvette Bates set a world indoor best of 13.13 metres.

Belgrade strong contender for '92 Olympics, Samaranch says

BELGRADE (R) — Belgrade is a strong candidate to organise the 1992 Summer Games, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Friday.

Samaranch, in Yugoslavia on the anniversary of the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics, said: "Belgrade could be a very strong contender in the bid by six cities to stage the 1992 games."

The IOC president said the Yugoslav capital already had nearly 80 per cent of the necessary sports facilities.

Major items needed were an Olympic village and further development of telecommunication and television technical facilities, he said.

He said Yugoslavia had proved its organisational skills by staging the 1984 Winter Olympics, plus a number of world and European championships.

Samaranch said May 15 was the deadline for Belgrade, New Delhi, Paris, Barcelona, Amsterdam and Brisbane to submit their official bids to the IOC.

"We will decide the venue for the 1992 Summer Games at a meeting in Lausanne in October, 1986 after studying all reports by commissions," Samaranch said.

Turning to the 1988 Winter and Summer Olympics, to be held in Canada and South Korea respectively, Samaranch said reports on preparations in Calgary were excellent.

"Some people think we could face difficulties in Seoul. There will be no problems if we have a better political situation," he said.

"The international Olympic movement could suffer if the situation was the same or worse than last year. But we hope for a much better international political situation and we expect all countries to be present in Seoul," he added.

The IOC will hold a meeting in East Berlin next June to decide on possible changes in the Olympic programme for the 1992 games, Samaranch said.

"We are studying possibilities to include some new sports in the Olympic programme. I have in mind primarily baseball, women's softball and badminton."

Gross sets another world record

BONN (R) — West German Michael Gross beat his own world best mark for the 200 metres butterfly in a 25-metre pool Saturday with a time of one minute 54.78 seconds.

Gross, who set a world best over 800 metres freestyle Friday, broke the butterfly mark of 1:54.8 he set

only last weekend. It was his fourth best mark in eight days.

Gross said Saturday he had no ambition to be a new Mark Spitz or Vladimir Salnikow despite his shock world best time Friday in a distance he had never swum before in major competition.

Gross, Olympic champion in the 100 metres butterfly and 200 metres freestyle, broke new ground by clocking seven minutes 38.75 seconds in the 800 metres freestyle, 0.15 seconds inside Salnikow's world best set in Bonn in 1983.

He had swum the distance only once before, at a domestic meeting last year, and said he was surprised as anyone that he had beaten the mark set by the Soviet swimmer, the acknowledged master of long-distance races.

But Gross, speaking at a news conference Saturday morning, rejected suggestions that his success might encourage him to move up to the longer distance in the next few years.

"I don't think so," he said. "You need so much training for long hauls. It's very different from 800 metres in a short pool where you get more help from the turns."

Gross, 20, has achieved so much in the last three years in terms of Olympic, world and European titles as well as world records that he invites comparison with American Mark Spitz, winner of seven golds at the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

Spitz won four individual golds at the games, a feat Gross says could not be matched again.

"The thing is that Spitz didn't have such good competition in 1972," he said. "And he didn't have to go flat out on the relays. So it's pretty hard to emulate him, impossible really."

Gross was surprisingly edged out of a gold medal at Los Angeles in his favourite event, the 200 metres butterfly, by the relatively unknown Jon Sieben of Australia.

He said he had swum his best but his exertions in the 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay, when his brilliant final leg almost snatched gold from the Americans, had taken a lot out of him.

Gross said his competition schedule was full enough with three individual races and three relays but did not rule out the possibility of swimming the 400 metres freestyle as well as the Sofia European Championships in August.

Champion Hess wanted to quit skiing

By Brian Creighton
Reuter

BORMIO, Italy — There were times this season, as race after race passed by without victory, that Erika Hess of Switzerland considered quitting skiing.

But she knew she couldn't. "Of course I thought of it, but you can't quit in mid-season," she said. "You have to go on fighting. After all the training last summer, I couldn't quit yet."

"Besides, I was always convinced I would come back. I had had some good runs, so I knew I had not forgotten how to ski well. I couldn't say when or where, but I knew I would come back one day."

That day arrived for the 22-year-old reigning World Cup champion at the World Alpine Championships Monday — she stormed to victory in both runs of the women's combination slalom to snatch the combined event gold medal.

With that triumph, Hess successfully defended the first of the three titles she won at the 1982 World Championships in Schladming, Austria.

And she immediately became the favourite again for the slalom crown next Saturday.

But Hess is not thinking much about winning again, just as her only aim Monday was to ski well.

A share of 16th place in last Thursday's combination downhill, coupled with failures in this season's World Cup, relegated victory to the back of her mind.

"I have no idea how the system works in the combined. I didn't know I was leading the event after the first run and I didn't want to know," Hess said. "I let others make the calculations and just concentrated on skiing."

"This victory was something fantastic. This gold is worth more than the golds in Schladming, after coming back from such a long time in the desert."

"I really came here as an outsider. I hadn't won a race this season, so there was not much pressure. Also, the rest of the team has done so well it took pressure off me. I was able to prepare in a quiet way."

"Seldom in my career have I started a race so relaxed, so cool, certainly not this winter. I would have to look back a long time to see when I skied two runs in a row so well."

Yet there was a time when winning slaloms was second nature for the girl dubbed "Golden Erika". She won six in succession and 10 out of 11 leading up to Schladming in 1982. It was also her first World Cup overall triumph.

A knee injury forced her out of competition in the middle of the next season and the honour went to American Tamara McKinney, who was third in the slalom and combined Monday.

In 1983-84, Hess bounced back to recapture the cup, though after winning three earlier World

Cup slalom crowns, it was the giant slalom where she excelled last season. But she failed at the Sarajevo winter Olympics, finishing fifth in the slalom and seventh in the giant.

"At the beginning of this season, I didn't have the feeling on skis," she said. "Then in January I just didn't have the luck."

Second place in a slalom in December was followed by two thirds, but perhaps her worst day was at Pfronten, West Germany, in a slalom.

"I was leading and I was going to win. I had no problems. I just fell," she said. "But like all my disappointments this winter, I just tried to put it out of mind, forget it and fight back."

She would not predict victories in the other races this week. "The feeling is back, the confidence is back. But I can't guarantee that everything will be rolling like in Schladming. To repeat Schladming would be very difficult," she said.

"I can't set such a high goal because everything went really perfectly then."

"It is great to have won a gold medal because now I have nothing to lose. I can prepare for the other races in a relaxed way. Anything could happen now. I have got one medal, that is the important thing."

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U.S. not to use sanctions against New Zealand

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — U.S. Trade Envoy William Brock indicated Saturday that Washington would not use economic sanctions against New Zealand for its ban on nuclear ship visits.

"There is a great deal of regret in the U.S. administration over New Zealand's action but I would be cautious to suggest that the U.S. would take any retaliatory action as we are not comfortable with that approach," he told a news conference before leaving for Tokyo.

Mr. Brock said, however, that Washington would have to review some of its policies to ensure continued good relations with Wellington.

New Zealand forbids visits by nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed warships. Last week it denied a U.S. request that a warship be allowed to visit next month.

The decision sparked a row over its impact on the ANZUS defence alliance, which includes Australia.

In New York aides to Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke Friday said at no time in his talks with President Reagan or other administration officials was there mention of possible U.S. economic moves against New Zealand.

New Zealand's decision not to allow a U.S. warship to enter one of its ports came on the eve of Mr.

Hawke's visit to Washington and dominated his talks with the president and other administration officials.

An aide told Reuters: "There was no proposal by the administration to put economic pressure on New Zealand. Nothing like that was mentioned. We (Australia) don't support undue pressure being put on New Zealand."

Both Mr. Hawke and Mr. Reagan have said their defence alliance with New Zealand was not in jeopardy because of New Zealand's refusal to allow U.S. ships, possibly carrying nuclear weapons, into its ports.

The two men also said the ANZUS defence alliance between the three countries would not be scrapped.

There have been some calls in Congress for economic retaliation against New Zealand because of its decision.

A senior U.S. official in Washington said the United States' first priority in the dispute was "to solidify our cooperation with Australia."

In his speech to the

Australian-American Association, Mr. Hawke declared his government looked forward to a continuing close relationship with the United States.

Meanwhile United Nations chief Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived here Saturday for a four-day visit to New Zealand during which he will have talks with Prime Minister David Lange.

Mr. Lange said in a statement he wanted to talk to the secretary general about disarmament, the situation in New Caledonia, and issues involving Africa which he will visit later this year.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is also expected to explain to Mr. Perez de Cuellar New Zealand's refusal to allow visits by nuclear warships.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is on the last leg of a diplomatic shuttle which has taken him to Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, in what he called a search for a formula to resolve the Kampuchean troubles.

In his talks with Mr. Lange, the U.N. chief planned to raise such issues as United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and the Middle East, the economic crisis in Africa and developments in Kampuchea and Afghanistan, the New Zealand statement said.

He will meet the New Zealand cabinet on Monday before flying to Australia on Tuesday.



DEMONSTRATORS DISPERSED: Demonstrators had sought to go to the airport to welcome dissident leader Kim Dae-Jung, but were turned back by riot police (AP wirephoto)

Sihanouk receives envoys' credentials

PHUM TMAI, Kampuchea (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed Saturday to have trapped hundreds of Vietnamese troops as Prince Norodom Sihanouk received the credentials of four envoys accredited to his Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

Welcoming the envoys from Bangladesh, North Korea, Senegal and Mauritania to "liberated" Kampuchea, Prince Sihanouk told them the struggle to end Vietnam's six-year-old occupation of his country would continue until final victory.

"It may take one century, two centuries, we don't mind. We will fight," he said at Phum Tmai, a showcase civilian settlement of the Khmer Rouge in the Phnom Malai complex.

Khmer Rouge commanders told Thai border officers they had trapped between 200 and 300 Vietnamese soldiers on the eastern slopes of Phnom Mak Hoen, about 15 kilometres east of Phum Tmai.

They said the soldiers had been trying to advance on hill 329 which guards the entrance to Phum Tmai, about 500 metres from the Thai border.

Phnom Malai, a 400 square kilometre complex of camps and bases, has long been a Khmer Rouge sanctuary. It has been under siege since late last month by about 18,000 Vietnamese troops trying to flush out an estimated 10,000 guerrillas.

Thai military officers said they could not confirm the Khmer Rouge report that a Vietnamese battalion had been isolated from main force units at Phnom Mak Hoen.

Calidion Vice President Khieu Samphan of the Khmer Rouge brushed aside reporters' queries on the report, saying: "We have no need for publicity."

"We are stronger this year and are hitting deeper in the interior, within 30 kilometres of Phnom Prah," he added.

Until Prince Sihanouk's visit Saturday to Phum Tmai, a civilian settlement with a population of about 17,000, journalists had been banned from Khmer Rouge controlled areas since the Vietnamese dry-season border offensive began last November.

After meeting the envoys, Prince Sihanouk held a press conference at which he sought to minimise reports of strife and disunity between the Khmer Rouge and its two non-Communist partners in the U.N.-recognised coalition.

Hanoi has accused the Khmer Rouge, which it ousted from power in 1979, of murdering three million people in a fanatical purge of opponents.

Prince Sihanouk, who lost several relatives in the purge, said the Khmer Rouge had definitely changed for the better.

"They are now accepted by the people and I think they are intelligent enough not to remake the regime of old," he said.

Saturday's ceremony was held under a scorching sun at the camp's central square, flanked on four sides by well-laid thatched

huts.

Khmer Rouge soldiers in olive green uniforms and armed with new Chinese semi-automatic rifles were in evidence everywhere.

The envoys who presented their credentials were Ahmad Tidiane Khane of Senegal, Ri Seung Ki of North Korea, M. Kaiser of Bangladesh and Diagana Youssouf of Mauritania.

Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will meet in Bangkok on Monday to review the intractable Kampuchean problem and reaffirm support for guerrillas fighting Vietnamese forces.

The two-day talks follow a peace mission to the region by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and an appeal by ASEAN for Moscow to stop aiding Vietnam in its war against the Kampuchean guerrillas.

ASEAN is spearheading a diplomatic drive to end Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea. It is worried by Hanoi's current anti-guerrilla military offensive which has several times spilled over into Thailand, causing clashes with Thai troops.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar ended his South East Asian diplomatic shuttle last Friday, admitting he had been unable to find a compromise formula to resolve the six-year-old conflict.

Thai Foreign Ministry sources said ASEAN members were still united in their support for Kampuchean guerrillas and would reaffirm this during the conference.

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Howe meets Ceausescu

BUCHAREST (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, on a mission to stress the West's seriousness over renewed East-West arms talks, conferred here Saturday with Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei also attended the meeting with Sir Geoffrey, who is travelling on to Bulgaria Sunday and visits Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany in April.

The meeting was held in a hall at the Communist Party Central Committee headquarters.

No word on the meeting with Mr. Ceausescu was immediately available, but British officials said Sir Geoffrey's initiative was prompted by a conviction that East-West relations should not depend solely on the atmosphere at U.S.-Soviet arms talks.

One member of the British party said that Sir Geoffrey, like other Western ministers making contacts with the East, was making clear he was "genuinely determined to make arms negotiations a success to make East-West relations more secure at a lower level of arms."

Mr. Ceausescu, the most independent-minded of all East Bloc leaders, has made a number of peace initiatives.

A senior Romanian Foreign Ministry official said Friday that Romania would be suggesting a joint initiative to Britain to declare that all nuclear weapons be withdrawn from non-nuclear states.

British officials expected Sir Geoffrey to listen to such a proposal if it were put forward Saturday.

But they noted that Britain's policy was to back installation of U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Europe unless the Soviet Union withdrew its own SS-20 missiles on its own territory aimed at Western Europe.

"They know perfectly well our policy on intermediate-range weapons," one British official said.

Sir Geoffrey arrived Friday night and was driven through dimly lit streets.

Romanian officials said one issue to be raised was the possibility of fresh credits from Britain, although this crisis-hit Balkan country is set on a course of austerity to repay foreign debts as soon as possible.

A senior Romanian Foreign Ministry official told Reuters that Romania was prepared to consider new credits, as long as repayment conditions were not considered onerous, while pushing ahead to pay off some \$7.5 billion of outstanding loans and interest on that sum.

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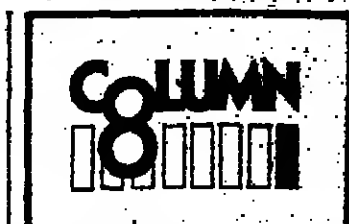
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Woman spends life savings believing she won lottery

RARITAN, New Jersey (R) — A Polish immigrant says she spent her life savings on gifts for her family, including a mechanised bed for her leukaemia-stricken grandson, after being told she had won \$75,000 in a lottery. Then, two weeks later, a notice came in the mail from the State Lottery Board telling her there had been a mistake. She had won nothing — and lost her \$6,000 savings to boot.

"The store owner where I bought it in September told me I had a winning ticket," said Maria Kurkowiak, 65. "So did the state lottery official in Trenton when we called them. I worked so many years to save that money. Now I'm sick at heart. Why did that man say I won if the ticket wasn't right? It's so sad." The error arose because of confusion over numbers in an instant lottery in which a ticket is scratched to reveal numbers. If they match, a prize box is rubbed, revealing in this case \$75,000.

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Reagan names General Walters to U.N. post

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has nominated Vernon Walters, an experienced secret envoy and troubleshooter for several administrations, to the post of U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

He would replace Jeane Kirkpatrick, who resigned last month to return to private life after serving four years in the job. The position is subject to Senate confirmation.

Gen. Walters, 68, a retired U.S. army Lt. Gen. and accomplished linguist, would retain the cabinet rank that was accorded to Mrs. Kirkpatrick, the White House said in a statement.

Gen. Walters has shuttled around the world for many secretaries of state and presidents since World War II but most of his sessions with foreign leaders have been kept top secret.

"His special assignments included serving directly under Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Nixon," the statement said.

For the past four years he has been an ambassador-at-large and diplomatic troubleshooter for Mr. Reagan. Some of his recent missions have taken him to Africa, Asia and Central America.

Gen. Walters became a principal spokesman for the Reagan administration's policy of "quiet diplomacy" and behind-the-scenes persuasion, especially on the issue of human rights violations.

He told a Senate hearing in 1981 that U.S. policy on human rights should be marked not by abrasive public statements but by "private arm-twisting."

Gen. Walters, a former intelligence agent, worked in a similar capacity for five administrations. He was a secret envoy for then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during the Vietnam peace negotiations with North Vietnamese and Chinese officials.

Gen. Walters served as an aide to veteran U.S. diplomat Averell Harriman at the Marshall Plan Headquarters in Paris after World War II, assisted Gen. Dwight Eisenhower in setting up Supreme Headquarters for Allied Powers, Europe (SHAPE) in Paris, was staff assistant to Gen. Eisenhower on all his foreign trips after the general became president, and was also military attaché in Italy, Brazil and France.

He served as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) from 1972 to 1976.

Gen. Walters, according to published reports, had told the White House he would not be interested in the U.N. post unless he had the cabinet rank given to Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, an outspoken conservative, was said in published reports to have sought a senior foreign policy position to Mr. Reagan's second administration but none was found for her.

Announcing her resignation, she said she would return to teaching and writing and speak out on U.S. foreign policy from academic forums.

Gen. Walters, by contrast, is largely a private man who shuns personal publicity. He once observed that he was perfect for secret missions because he could stand in crowded airport terminals and not be recognised by anyone.

One of his most publicised qualifications is his linguistic ability. Gen. Walters is said to speak at least eight languages.

U.S. reveals existence of 'secret' plane

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon has accidentally disclosed the existence of a secret aircraft code-named Aurora on which it plans to spend more than \$2 billion in 1987.

Those details were inadvertently printed in a Defence Department budget document made public this week, but beyond that no one will say anything about the new air force craft.

"I am not authorised to comment," is the standard reply from Pentagon officials to questions about the plane.

The document simply lists the name and planned spending of \$36 million for the plane's development in 1986 and an additional \$2.3 billion in 1987.

Informed sources say the Aurora is a reconnaissance version of the so-called Stealth bomber being built by Northrop, but officials refused to comment on that report.

The Stealth, whose development is cloaked in secrecy, is being designed with new materials and configurations to make it nearly invisible to enemy radar.

The minister, Lalith Athulthumudali, met with Mr. Gandhi for about an hour at his residence. External Affairs Ministry spokesman Salman Haidar told reporters.

He gave no other details of the talks, but government sources who asked out to be identified said Mr. Gandhi expressed concern over violence against minority Tamils in Sri Lanka and called for

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